

Reclaim Education

Notes on the global struggle

World News!

May 2, Zurich:

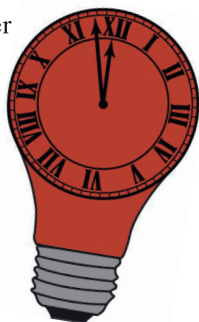
Out of despair at his upcoming deportation the ASZ (Autonomous School Zurich)- and right of abode activist Moncef S. committed suicide. The asylum policies are directly responsible for his death. In protest against the deportation, 500 people took to the streets through the city centre in an impressive funeral and demonstration. Website: bildung-fuer-alle.ch

May 2/3, Ekiti State:

In reaction to the implementation of the "No tuition fees, no lecture" policy hundreds of students blocked the main gates at the public Ekiti State University in Nigeria. To slow the growing momentum of the protests, the university was shut down for two weeks following the order of the university administration.

May 8, NY City:

Students of Cooper Union University started an occupation of their Presidents Office in a demonstration against the decision to charge undergraduate tuition for the first time in



150 years. As the occupation enters its third week, the creative gestures by the students include performing readings of leaked trustee transcripts and painting the lobby black outside president Bharucha's office.

May 9, Vienna:

A feminist group squatted an empty house for around 24 hours. Also in Vienna activists have been squatting buildings to resist the demolition of affordable housing spaces and denounce the vacantness of buildings. Website: platzda.blog-sport.eu

May 14, Australia:

The newly initiated network Class Action, as well the National Tertiary Education Union called for protests against cuts within higher education and increasing tuition fees across the country for that day. Public spending for education was cut by 4 billion dollars since 2011. The biggest rally with around 3000 people took place in Melbourne. Also in other cities such as Adelaide and Sydney hundreds of people gathered as part of this day of action. In Sydney police attacked a picket line at the university, which resulted in many people getting injured. One person even broke his leg. These were one of the biggest education protests by students in Australia for the past few years. It remains to be seen how things will develop from here.

May 15, Birmingham:

Plans for a large-scale change in the working conditions of support staff at Birmingham University has been abandoned under pressure from students threatening to disrupt the forthcoming open days. Birmingham Defend Education, a student group at the university, were planning to 'mobilize a national demonstration' and 'days of action' at the end of June, if support workers' conditions were not protected. Website: defendeducationbrum.org



goals. Short-term include: Stopping increases in tuition fees now; stopping the ongoing abolition of university autonomy; public support by the academic community (teachers). Long-term include: Free (publicly funded) education for all; stopping the implementation of the "Bologna declaration"; replacing student parliaments with structures based on direct democracy. The following day (May 17) a huge press conference took place inside the occupied rooms. Afterwards the students announced that there are more actions planned for the coming weeks and left the building. Website: studentskeborbe.info



May 16, Belgrade:

(image above) Students began to occupy the administration building of the University of Belgrade and brought it under student control. They announced short and long-term

May 16, Madrid:

About 40 students have occupied the Rector of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) regarding access to the university with a total 3,500 students who have failed

About this newsletter

This newsletter is part of the communication infrastructure of the independent platform International Student Movement (ISM). The ISM is being used and shaped by individuals and groups around the world who are struggling against the increasing commercialisation of education and for free emancipatory education for all. This newsletter is the result of voluntary work done by a few individuals who are passionate about the cause. The positions expressed are not in any way representative for any group or the ISM as a whole.

website: ism-global.net

contact:

ism_admin@lists.riseup.net

twitter: @ISM030

#1world1struggle

to pay all or part of their tuition. Source: Voz Populi. While the administration seeks to mitigate these negative effects by prolonging the payment date, students are maintaining the occupation with rotating shifts. Source: El Pais.net

One World

One Struggle

International Solidarity Statement against (State) Repression

In addition to the international joint statement with the focus on education some individuals connected to the International Student Movement (ISM) platform agreed on the following statement focussing on (state) repression. It is the result of various discussions through online chat meetings and was published in May 2013. To support it as a group or individual send an email to ism_admin@lists.riseup.net

We want to express our support and solidarity with those suffering under and fighting against state repression, while struggling for free emancipatory education anywhere in this world. State repression is

inherently linked to the struggle for emancipation, in its many shapes and colors. People worldwide endure violence at the hands of the state whenever they begin to move and feel their chains. State repression exists within the streets as well as on campus.

Such repression has taken numerous forms ranging from direct acts of violence to the limitation of free speech. Such acts serve to uphold current state-market relations which aim to produce exploitable diligent human capital rather than individuals politically engaged in their communities. Repressive policies have many faces; be it particular laws (e.g. P-6 in Montréal), undercover agents infiltrating activist groups,



campus police or other means of surveillance on campus, or the common attacks by armed forces during demonstrations, which often

struggle for emancipation. We emphasize the importance of solidarity on the local as well as global level, in the effort to highlight

result in arrests, serious injuries or even death. We categorically condemn state repression and stand in solidarity with students (and others) scrutinizing the predominant political, economic and social system, asking critical questions and striving for

alternatives in the

state repression of students' ability to struggle for their interests. Solidarity across campuses, national borders, and other arbitrary divisions permits us to mitigate the effectiveness of varying forms of intimidation tactics.

By signing this statement, you contribute to a sign of global solidarity and raise awareness of the structural function of state repression, and reiterate the need for an education emancipated from both the market and the state.

* This statement was initially drafted in response to the killing of student Mohamed Fizazi by the Moroccan police.

International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia

In almost 80 countries around the world, loving someone of the same sex is still considered illegal, at times involving lifetime imprisonment and, in nine countries, it is even punishable by death! And in many more countries, citizens are still denied their right to live according to their preferred gender identity. As well as legal discriminations, social homophobia and transphobia serve to daily deny millions of people across the world their basic human dignity. "The International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) began in



2004 to draw the attention of policymakers, opinion leaders, social movements, the public and the media to this issue." Source: may17.info Since the struggle against discrimination based on sexual orientation and identity is just as much part of the struggle for emancipation as the fight for free education, a short list of extracts of media reports related to the IDAHO on May 17th 2013 is published in this newsletter. People came together in more than 100 countries to protest against any forms of discrimination based on one's sexual orientation and sexual identity.

Tbilisi: "At least 17 people have been injured by violence that broke

out in Georgia's capital before a rally to mark International Day Against Homophobia. Thousands of antigay activists disrupted the planned lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) event in Tbilisi's Pushkin Park on May 17, with many attacking gathering gay-rights campaigners." Source: rferl.org

Global: "New figures published today show 78 trans people were murdered in 13 countries from 1 January to 30 April this year. There were 1,233 reported murders of trans people in 59 countries worldwide from 1 January 2008 to 30 April 2013. The new figures were collected as part of the Trans Murder Monitoring project by

Transgender Europe (TGEU)" Source: gaystarnews.com St. Petersburg: "Today, over 150 LGBT people and their friends and allies gathered on Marsovo Pole, the "Hyde Park" of St. Petersburg, to commemorate Vladislav Tornovoy and other victims of homophobic hate crimes, making this one of the largest public LGBT demonstration ever in Russia." Source: comingoutspb.ru

"I am 17 Government tells me that I don't exist. Nationals tell me that I should be killed. I will live!"



Nairobi: "Police in Kenya have stopped people marching through the capital Nairobi (17 May) to mark the (IDAHO) Day of Action..Julie Jules commented, 'Basically the police stopped the procession because we would be seen to be "promoting homosexuality"'. 'Being homosexual in Kenya is a criminal offence currently according the penal code.'. But we will not be frustrated or discouraged. We will keep going.'" gaystarnews.com

San Juan: "The mayor of Puerto Rico's capital on Monday signed two executive orders designed to end discrimination against her city's LGBT residents." Source: washingtonblade.com